



Spring 2023

MCCB NEWS

Letter from the President

John Doudna
Professor of Biology
MCCB President

Hello Members!

What a delightful trip it has been to be President of MCCB for the last year! We're working our way out of the pandemic, getting back together, and figuring out how to share in new and interesting ways. I wanted to take a moment and thank everyone for their time, energy, and input at the Fall 2022 conference at Mid. And a giant Thank You to the conference organizers for a spirited return that generated a lot of ideas on how we can move MCCB into the future.

One of the most important messages we gathered at the meeting was that you all want consistent communication and awesome opportunities to get together. We've taken that feedback to heart and have some improvements in the works for the former and some neat ideas for the latter. Numerous people have stepped up to take on new responsibilities when we're all already overloaded. The officers and committee chairs are making moves to enhance communication with the membership, develop plans for a new MCCB officer-managed website, and to make the newsletter more useful.

Your support is critical in all of the communication ventures.

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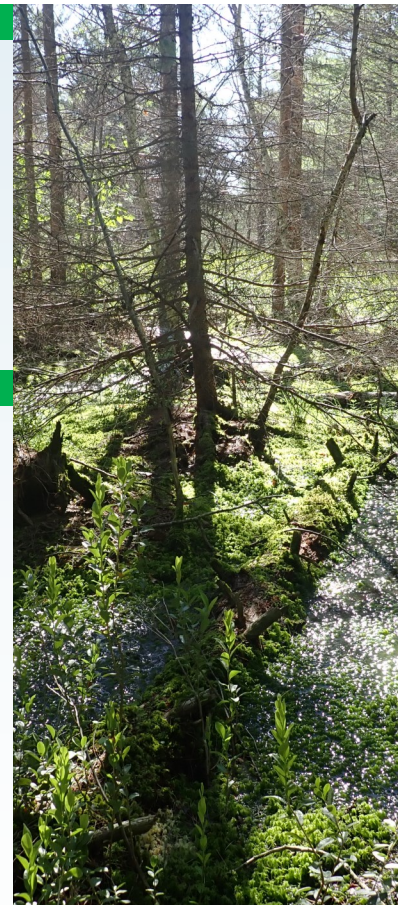


Photo by Adam Jaros

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MCCB Officers

John Doudna
(President)

Katie LaCommare
(President Elect)

Jeff Percha
(Past President)

Trish Finnerty
(Secretary)

Ryan Dziedzic
(Treasurer)

Isis Arsnoe
(Membership Chair)

Katherine LaCommare
(Nominations Chair)

Adam Jaros
(Newsletter Editor)



Click Link below:
[Facebook](#)

Letter From The President Continued...

We're relying a lot on member input, so keep the ideas coming and be on the lookout for requests. We also need to get some new officers added to the amazing bunch we already have. We're looking for a Nominations and Elections Chair and a President-Elect!

Speaking of getting together, this June we will have our fieldtrip -retreat-professional development: floating the Manistee River. We'll enjoy each other's company and expertise while leisurely floating downstream (not sure how else we'd float)! We've got more information later in the newsletter, so keep reading. As for formal meetings, so many of you have spoken up as possible locations for future conferences that we've got a queue going! The coming fall meeting is at Montcalm, and you can learn more later in the newsletter. The future of MCCB is strong with this dedicated bunch.

Thank you all for your continued support and participation in MCCB. You are the organization, and you are wonderful!

Sincerely,
John Doudna
MCCB President



Upcoming Events

Spring General Membership Meeting—April 14th 2023

Meeting will be held virtually, Friday, April 14th at 3pm (EST). You can join this session through following the Zoom link below:

<https://midmich.zoom.us/j/94174868898>

Summer 2023 Professional Development and Fellowship Retreat

The Spring 2023 MCCB retreat on the Manistee River. Big Manistee River Trips:

<https://manisteeadventures.com/big-manistee-river-trips/>



MANISTEE
ADVENTURES

Fall Conference at Montcalm Community College

If you are interested in presenting or leading a discussion session at the Fall conference, please fill out this short form: (Link may require copy/paste, or use QR code below)

<https://form.jotform.com/230927462896065>



Website Info

Please visit our website at:

<http://www.mccb1.org/>

You will find information concerning conferences, job positions, general information about our organization as well useful web resources on our website.

If any MCCB member knows about biology positions, upcoming relevant conferences, seminars, or workshops being held in Michigan (as well as throughout the U.S.) please email information to:

Isis Arsnoe

mccbmembership@gmail.com

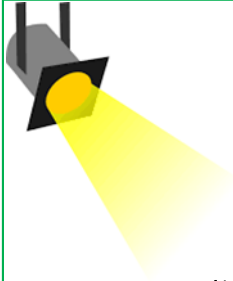
Open MCCB Officer Positions

We are looking for folks to get involved! If you are looking for a group of like-minded educators and want to expand your network, we are it! We have two officer openings for the 2023 - 2024 academic year. Currently, we are specifically looking for a:

- **Nominating and Election Committee Chair** - this person oversees the nomination and voting procedures and processes.
- **President-Elect** - The responsibilities of this position are to learn the ropes to become president in the following year.

If you are interested in serving on one of the 4 standing committees, we'd love to have you in that capacity, too. The four standing committees are: Membership, Nominating and Elections, Communications, and Professional Development. You are also welcome to get more involved as your campus representative if that sounds interesting to you.





Spotlight: Mid Michigan College

Fun facts about Michigan community colleges, written by biology faculty.

Name: Mid Michigan College (Mid)

Mascot: Harry the Heron

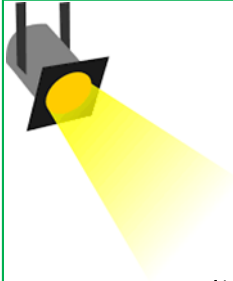
Location: Harrison and Mount Pleasant, extensive off-campus offerings ranging from Huron ISD in the east to Mecosta-Osceola ISD in the west

Approximate Student Enrollment: 4,000

Mid Michigan College (until 2018 Mid Michigan Community College) was officially established in 1968 with the main 560-acre campus located south of the city of Harrison in Clare County. In addition to the Harrison campus, which underwent extensive renovation between 2018-2020 to become one of the most energy efficient community colleges in the State, the 44-acre Mount Pleasant campus, continues to evolve and grow with the building of the Doan Center in 2008 (where the sciences are housed) and subsequent expansions with the most recent being the Center for Liberal Arts and Business in 2014. Mid's service district includes the school districts of Clare and Gladwin Counties (Beaverton, Gladwin, Clare, Harrison, and Farwell) with the recent addition of Mount Pleasant (Isabella County). Mid offers 28 Associate Degrees (including several that are partially/completely online), 23 Certificates/Training Credentials and maintains Early College partnerships with several area schools. As well, Mid's nationally-accredited concurrent/duel enrollment program continues to expand with 50+ schools involved and 1,300+ students served. The top transfer institutions are Ferris State, Central Michigan, and Saginaw Valley State Universities. Mid students participate in several varsity sports including men's and women's bowling, basketball, baseball/softball and coed teams for bass fishing, clay target shooting, and esports.

Biology at Mid continues to evolve with the interests and needs of students taking center-stage. With the renovation of the Harrison campus came the addition of the 1,600 sq. ft Poet Outdoor Education Center in 2019 offering students and community members a place to learn as well as a starting place to explore the extensive walking (4 miles) and biking trails (19 miles), which annually host the Rust Shaker Mountain Bike Race. Exciting new programs and courses have recently been developed at Mid including the State and now nationally recognized HAS (Hunting and Angling Scholars) program. HAS was highlighted on Michigan Out of Doors TV, Mike Avery's Outdoor Magazine Radio Show, and now Wardens TV show which

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Spotlight: Mid Michigan College



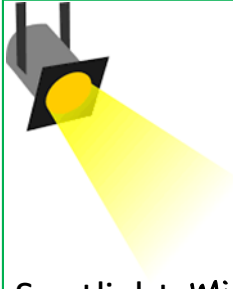
Fun facts about Michigan community colleges, written by biology faculty.



Pictured top: Florida Keys Study Abroad - Snorkeling (August 2022)

Pictured bottom: Florida Keys Study Abroad - Lab Activity (*Cassiopeia* observations) (August 2022)





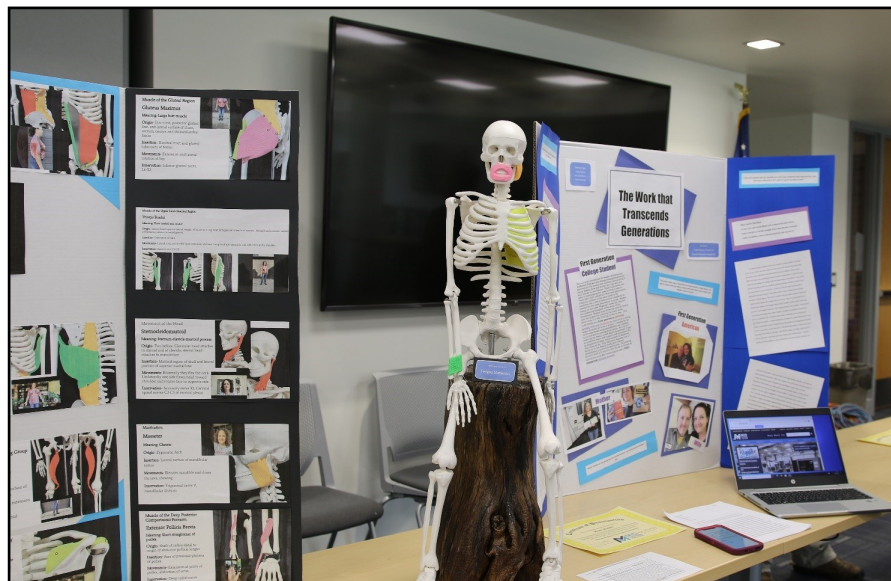
Spotlight: Mid Michigan College

Fun facts about Michigan community colleges, written by biology faculty.

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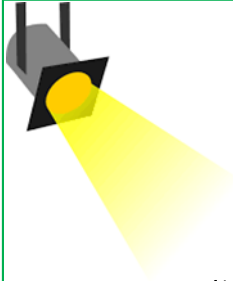
aired on the Outdoor Channel. This program explores the ways hunting, fishing, land management, media production, conservationism, safety, and promotion of the great outdoors connect through coursework, projects, and storytelling opportunities. MCCB member Trish Finerty has developed two popular marine biology-focused study abroad courses to Belize (May 2023), which received a \$20,000 NOAA/National Marine Sanctuary Foundation grant to underwrite student costs, and the Florida Keys (August 2023 - [registration](#) open to guest students through April!) allowing students unparalleled first-hand experiences with issues ranging from marine biodiversity and conservation to snorkeling and underwater data collection techniques. Lastly, Mid, working with Clare-Gladwin RESD, has endeavored to capitalize on the abundant agricultural activities in the region through the development of introductory courses in animal husbandry and agriculture with the goal of a degree pathway in the near future.

Through what started as collaborative faculty-driven effort to exhibit exceptional student work not just from the sciences, but from all disciplines, Mid now annually hosts the Spring Student Showcase.



Pictured: Anatomy & Physiology Muscle Model (Origins and Insertions) Showcase Project (April 2022)

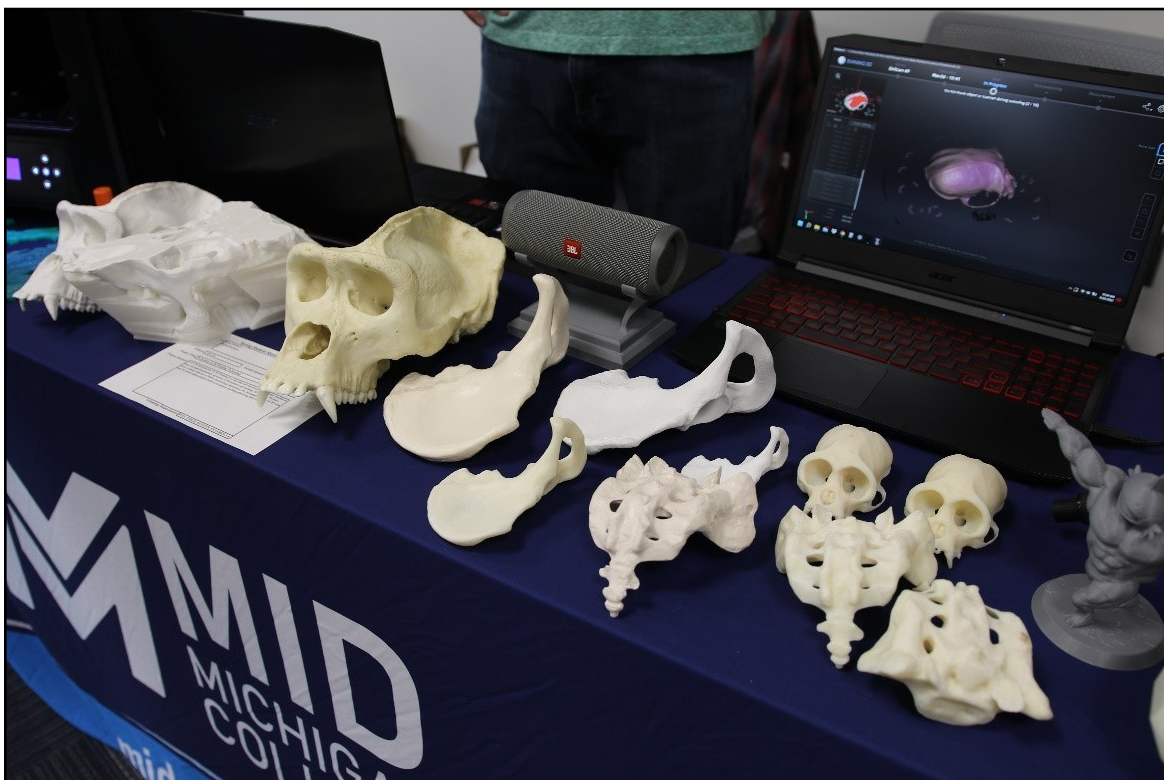
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Spotlight: Mid Michigan College

Fun facts about Michigan community colleges, written by biology faculty.

Since 2016, this event, which is held on each campus at the end of April, allows students from every discipline in the College to present their coursework to the wider campus community. Projects range from posters and speeches to demonstrations and works of art. During the course of the day, faculty, staff, and community members are permitted the opportunity to see the excellent work that is done across the College as well as, most importantly, interact with students as they proudly display and elaborate upon their work. Annually over 100 projects are submitted with over 200 students participating.



Pictured: Computer-aided Drafting (CAD) Bone Models for use in BIO Courses Showcase Project (April 2022)

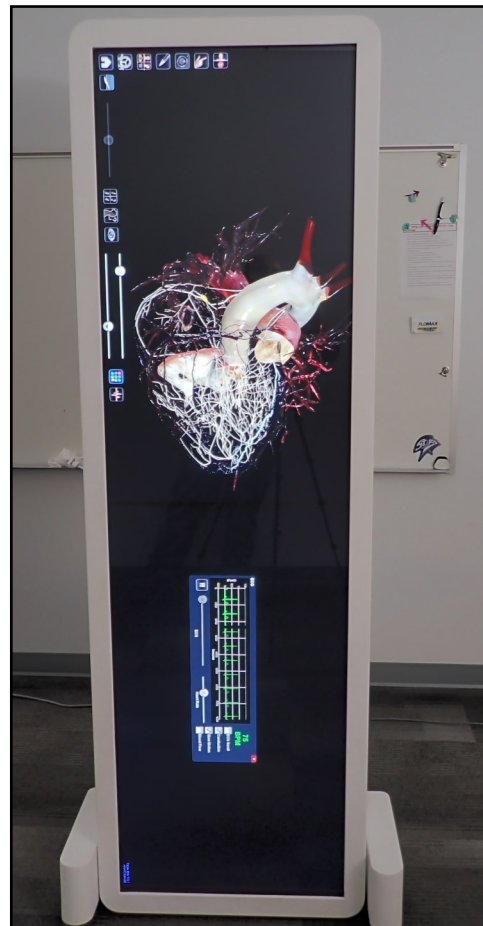
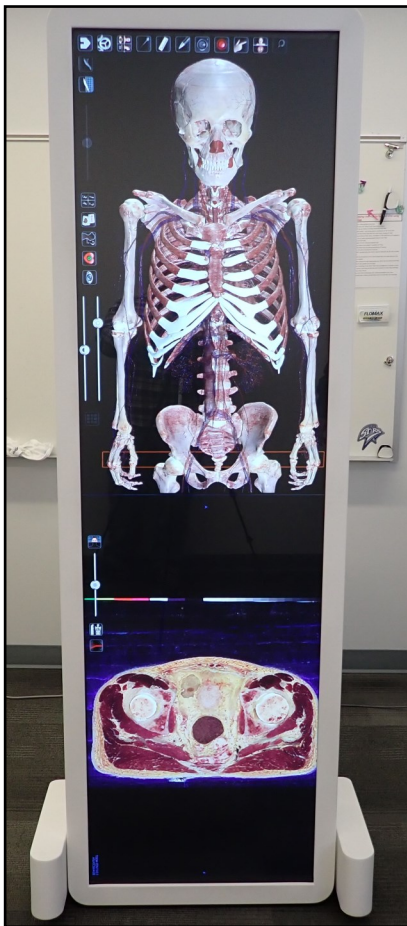
Teaching Equipment Highlight:

Anatmage Table

Lansing Community College recently acquired an Anatmage virtual cadaver dissection table that helps students learn spatial anatomy, critical for health care professions. It provides students with the experience of a cadaver dissection without the expense and requirements of maintaining an actual cadaver setup. Anatmage allows traditional prosection & dissection studies; visualization of digital imaging (MRI, CT, X-rays).



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Pictured Left: A dual display of the skeletal system and scan.

Pictured Right: Conduction system of the heart and an ECG trace.

Teaching Equipment Highlight:

Anatomage Table



(Continued from page 9)

The table is state-of-the-art, with advanced 3D anatomy visualization and can be used in person or in a remote setting for lecture and laboratory activities. In addition, students can learn and test their knowledge using activities and quizzes that can be customized for gross and regional anatomy. The Anatomage table also has learning activities for physiology including modules for cardiology, ophthalmology and pregnancy.

The table can be a powerful tool for self-directed learning. Students can also apply their learning to several pathophysiology case studies that are incorporated or can be customized using instructor resources.

The table is housed in the Arts and Sciences building on LCC's main campus. Additional tables are also at LCC's Livingston Center and East Campus locations.



Conference Spotlight: Association for Biology Laboratory Education

Spotlight on the ABE 2023 Conference by Heather Wesp

<https://www.ableweb.org/>

The Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) was founded in 1979 to promote information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with teaching biology in a laboratory setting. The focus of ABLE is to improve the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises.

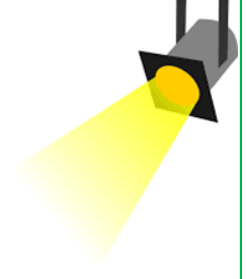
The yearly conference brings together a group of selected presenters with 100-200 participants from two and four-year college biology departments throughout Canada and the U.S. In the first two days of the conference, participants are actively involved in four 3-hour “hands on” workshops. On the third day, there several shorter “mini” workshops and a poster session. Before and after the conference, there are a nice variety of field trip options.



Workshop presenters provide all of the essential information and experiences that the potential users of the laboratory would require in order to “take them home” and use the exercises in their own teaching program. Presenters will then publish the workshop in *Advances in Biology Laboratory Education*, [formerly *Tested Studies for Laboratory Teaching* (1980-2019)]. This peer-reviewed journal published by ABLE is available [online](#) for all to use.

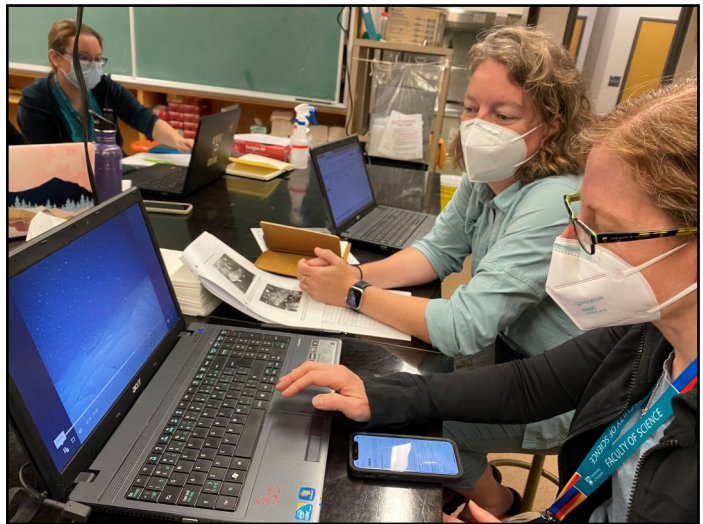
The 2023 conference is being hosted by University of California in San Diego and runs June 27-30, 2023. For schedule, cost, and registration details, go to the [conference](#) link on the ABLE website. There are also several virtual seminars held at other times throughout the year.

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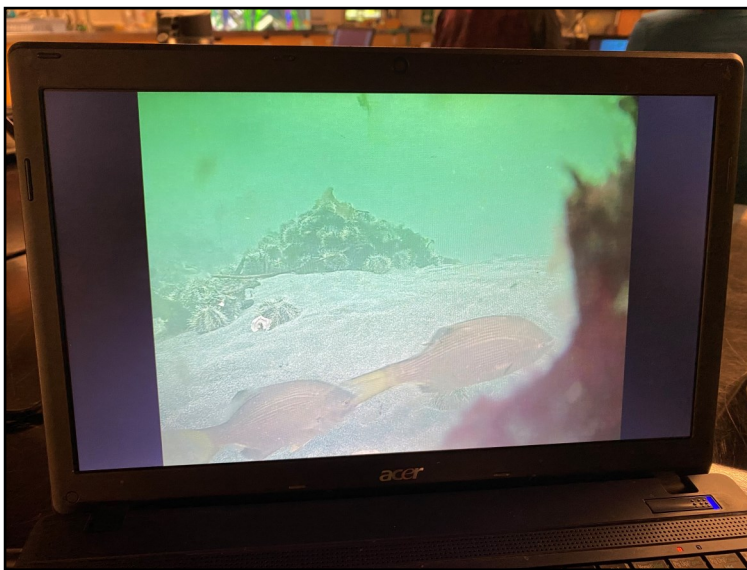


Conference Spotlight: Association for Biology Laboratory Education

Long-time member Heather Wesp (of both MCCB and ABLE) recommends this conference to any enthusiastic biology instructor. “I love the hands-on aspect of the conference. Every single year I bring home a new lab that I can use right away. I also love that I have developed long-term friendships with many colleagues around the country.” Below is a summary of Heather’s experiences during the the 2022 conference.



On Wednesday morning, I attended at presentation titled, **Identifying Marine Fish and Estimating Abundance**. This basic ecology activity could be incorporated into BIOL100 or ENVR101 with some hands-on video analysis



and relating data collected to common ecological concepts. I also learned about Pivot Tables (in Excel) and anticipate using these more often in the future; teaching students a new data analysis skill as well.

On Wednesday afternoon, I attended a session titled, **“Art and the Plight of the Environment”** which used art exhibit called Nuclear Enchantment by Patrick Nagatani as a way to start a discussion about using art to draw

attention to environmental issues. We were then challenged to create our own art (in the same way the students would). I definitely plan to use this activity as part of my Problems

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Conference Spotlight: Association for Biology Laboratory Education

and Solutions unit in ENVR101 this fall. It will be part of a larger project but I'm hoping we can have some kind of display or showing at MCC when we are all done!! If you are curious, here is my art project...



Thursday morning, I attended a writing activity entitled, **“Using Markdown and Free Tools to Write, Publish and Share an Open Source Scientific Writing Guide.”** I quickly realized that these writing tools were more complex than my basic needs to for editing and assembling lab manuals at MCC but I gamely stuck it out in case this is something that becomes relevant in the future. However, we also gained access to an Open Resource Scientific Writing Guide that I shared with all MCC science faculty as another resources or possible inspiration for updating our own guide.

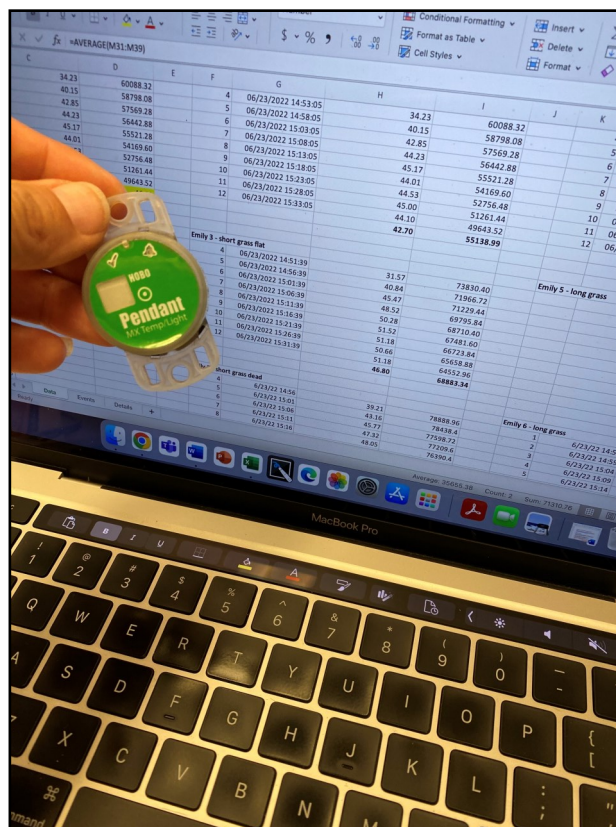
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Conference Spotlight: Association for Biology Laboratory Education

Thursday afternoon, I attended a lab activity titled, **“Using Temp and Light Data Loggers to Drive an Inquiry-Based Environmental Science Field Lab.”** I immediately saw the benefit of these sensors for use in a current lab for BIOL122 students. I can also see using them in an introduction to scientific process lab for ENVR101. Students will get to select their own focus on modified vs natural habitats and we will be able to use the data for a broader discussion.

I also participated in the Poster session by reviewing multiple posters relevant to my course content. Additionally, I submitted requests for materials from Friday’s sessions that I was unable to attend due to travel constraints. I’m looking forward to learning more about composting and about the microplastics issue to share in my ENVR101 course this fall.





Michigan Community College Biologists

A Statewide Network for Biology Educators

2023 Fall Conference

Fall 2023 Conference (Tentative Details)

Montcalm Community College is excited to host the Fall 2023 conference on Friday October 6th and Saturday, October 7th. We anticipate a dinner and keynote speaker at our Greenville campus Friday evening. There be with optional campus tours and registration beforehand and we are exploring some socialization opportunities at [Hop Hog](#), our local brew pub. Lodging will be at the [Americlnn by Wyndham](#), just a short 5-minutes away.

A short 20-minute drive Saturday morning will take you to our main campus in Sidney, Michigan. We'll begin the day with some breakfast and an Executive Board meeting. A variety of sessions in biological content areas, teaching innovations, and more will be offered throughout the day. A general membership meeting and tours of our newly renovated science, math, and nursing building will be held over lunchtime. We are exploring field trip options such as our [on-campus nature trails](#) and [Anderson and Girl's Orchard](#).

If you are interested in presenting at the Fall conference or have an ideas for a relevant speaker/presenter, please contact conference planning chair, Heather Wesp at hwesp@montcalm.edu

MCCB Fall 2023 conference presenters form

If you are interested in presenting or leading a discussion session at the Fall conference, please fill out this short form. Link may require copy/paste, or use QR code below.

<https://form.jotform.com/230927462896065>

